(d) and (e) Some environmental and technical concerns have been raised by Sri Lanka in respect of this project. In this regard, two rounds of expert level bilateral deliberations have been held in New Delhi wherein it has been clarified to Sri Lankan delegation that while formulating the project, adequate care has been taken to ensure that adverse impact on environment is minimal. During the discussions, detailed presentations on the technical investigations and environmental impact assessment were made. Further, as requested by Sri Lankan delegation, some reports relating to technical investigations in respect of this project were also handed over.

Revival of HDPEL

1216. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival scheme of Hooghly Dock and Port Engineering Ltd. has been examined by Board of Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE);

(b) if so, the recommendations of the Board; and

(c) if not, the reason for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A proposal for Rehabilitation-cum-Restructuring of Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Limited (HDPEL), Kolkata was sent to Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) on 20th April, 2005. The Board had initial round of discussions with officers of HDPEL and Department of Shipping and a presentation on this was also made to the Board on 8th July, 2005. The Board is yet to make recommendations on the proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Implementation of National Highway Projects

1217. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the poor implementation of the National Highway Projects;

(b) the target and implementation schedule for completion of the National Highway Project in the various sectors, Sector-wise;

(c) the reasons for their dismal performance; and

(d) whether Government would review the progress and expedite its completion and spell out a definite time-frame having regard to the importance of this infrastructure project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase I mainly consists of Golden Quadrilateral. 92% of Golden Quadrilateral is likely to be completed by December, 2005.

NHDP Phase II mainly consists of North-South and East-West Corridors which are likely to be completed by 2008.

NHDP Phase III is targeted to be completed by December, 2009.

(c) There have been delays in some contracts due to problems associated with land acquisition, shifting of utilities, poor performance of contractors, environment and forest clearances, clearance of Railways for Road Over Bridges designs, law and order problems etc.

(d) The progress is reviewed periodically and corrective measures are taken to expedite completion and to meet the targets of the National Highways Development Project.

Collission of Ships at Visakhapatnam Port

1218. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two ships collided at Visakhapatnam Port, recently;

(b) to what extent has lax piloting and port management been the cause of such accidents;

(c) the number of such accidents that have taken place in the last two years at Visakhapatnam;

(d) whether any enquiry has been done by a competent authority on this accident; and